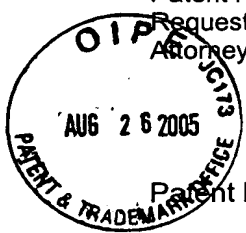


10/648882

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Patent No. 6,883,550
Request for Cert. of Correction dated August 22, 2005
Attorney Docket No. 0388-031637

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent No. : 6,883,550 Confirmation No. 4883
Inventors : Bekki et al.
Issued : April 26, 2005
Title : Flexible Pipe Joint
Examiner : James F. Hook
Customer No. : 28289

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION OF PATENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Certificate
SEP 01 2005
of Correction

ATTENTION: Decision and Certificate of Correction
Branch of the Patent Issue Division

Sir:

In accordance with 35 U.S.C. §255, we attach hereto Form PTO/SB/44 and proof of errors and request that a Certificate of Correction be issued in the above-identified patent. The following errors appear in the patent as printed:

Face of Patent, See Item (73) Assignee, "Waterworks Technology Development" should read -- Waterworks Technology Development Organization Co., Ltd. --
See Recordation of Assignment (correct) and Issue Fee Payment (incorrect)

Column 14, Line 2 of Claim 4, "in pipe axis" should read -- in the pipe axis --
(See Amendment of 10/04/2004, page 5, Claim 8, line 5. Claim 8 issued as Claim 4.)

The above errors are obvious typographical errors made by Applicants. A check for \$100.00 is attached to cover the fee for correction of Applicants' mistakes.

Respectfully submitted,

THE WEBB LAW FIRM

By Russell D. Orkin

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08/29/2005 BABRAHA1 00000042 6883550

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100.00 OP

{W0208491.1}

SEP 6 2005

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 6,883,550
DATED : April 26, 2005
INVENTOR(S) : Bekki et al.

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Face of Patent, See Item (73) Assignee, "Waterworks Technology Development" should read -- Waterworks Technology Development Organization Co., Ltd. --

Column 14, Line 2 of Claim 4, "in pipe axis" should read -- in the pipe axis --

{W0208492.1}

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER:

The Webb Law Firm
700 Koppers Building
436 Seventh Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1845

PATENT NO. 6,883,550

No. of additional copies



This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.322, 1.323, and 1.324. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1.0 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Attention Certificate of Corrections Branch, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

SEP 6 2005



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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND
DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

MARCH 23, 2004

PTAS

WEBB ZIESENHEIM LOGSDON ET AL.
RUSSELL D. ORKIN
700 KOPPERS BUILDING
436 SEVENTH AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15219



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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
NOTICE OF RECORDATION OF ASSIGNMENT DOCUMENT

THE ENCLOSED DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RECORDED BY THE ASSIGNMENT DIVISION OF THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE. A COMPLETE MICROFILM COPY IS AVAILABLE AT THE ASSIGNMENT SEARCH ROOM ON THE REEL AND FRAME NUMBER REFERENCED BELOW.

PLEASE REVIEW ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THIS NOTICE. THE INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THIS RECORDATION NOTICE REFLECTS THE DATA PRESENT IN THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK ASSIGNMENT SYSTEM. IF YOU SHOULD FIND ANY ERRORS OR HAVE QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS NOTICE, YOU MAY CONTACT THE EMPLOYEE WHOSE NAME APPEARS ON THIS NOTICE AT 703-308-9723. PLEASE SEND REQUEST FOR CORRECTION TO: U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE, ASSIGNMENT DIVISION, BOX ASSIGNMENTS, CG-4, 1213 JEFFERSON DAVIS HWY, SUITE 320, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231.

RECORDATION DATE: 08/27/2003

REEL/FRAME: 014440/0257

NUMBER OF PAGES: 3

BRIEF: ASSIGNMENT OF ASSIGNOR'S INTEREST (SEE DOCUMENT FOR DETAILS).

ASSIGNOR:

BEKKI, HIROYUKI

DOC DATE: 08/18/2003

ASSIGNOR:

KIYOZUMI, TSUTOMU

DOC DATE: 08/18/2003

ASSIGNEE:

WATERWORKS TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT
ORGANIZATION CO., LTD.
1-3-2700, UMEDA 1-CHOME
KITA-KU, OSAKA, JAPAN

SERIAL NUMBER: 10648882

FILING DATE: 08/27/2003

PATENT NUMBER:

ISSUE DATE:

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail

Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
 or Fax (703) 746-4000

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

28289 7590 12/28/2004

WEBB ZIESENHEIM LOGSDON ORKIN & HANSON, P.C.
 700 KOPPERS BUILDING
 436 SEVENTH AVENUE
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15219

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (703) 746-4000, on the date indicated below.

Bath Kennedy	(Depositor's name)
<i>Bath Kennedy</i>	(Signature)
March 10, 2005	(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/648,882	08/27/2003	Hiroyuki Bekki	388-031637	4883

TITLE OF INVENTION: FLEXIBLE PIPE JOINT

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	YES	\$700	\$300	\$1000	03/28/2005

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
HOOK, JAMES F	3754	138-120000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a Customer Number is required.

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

- 1 WEBB ZIESENHEIM
 2 LOGSDON ORKIN &
 3 HANSON, P.C.

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

Waterworks Technology Development

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY AND STATE OR COUNTRY)

Osaka, Japan

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☒ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are enclosed:

- ☒ Issue Fee
- ☒ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☒ Advance Order - # of Copies 10

4b. Payment of Fee(s):

- ☒ A check in the amount of the fee(s) is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized by charge the required fee(s), or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 230650 (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

The Director of the USPTO is requested to apply the Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if any) or to re-apply any previously paid issue fee to the application identified above. NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature

*Richard L. Byrne*Date March 10, 2005Typed or printed name Richard L. ByrneRegistration No. 28,498

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

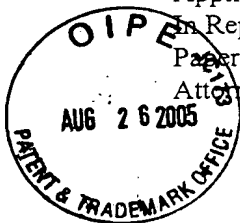
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Application No. 10/648,882

In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of June 3, 2004

Paper Dated October 4, 2004

Attorney Docket No. 388-031637



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/648,882 Customer No.: 28289
Applicants : Hiroyuki Bekki et al.
Filed : August 27, 2003
Title : **FLEXIBLE PIPE JOINT**
Art Unit : 3752
Confirmation No. : 4883
Examiner : James F. Hook

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated June 3, 2004, please find enclosed herewith a Petition for Extension of Time, extending the time in which to file a response by one month, from September 3, 2004 until October 3, 2004. October 3, 2004 is a Sunday, making the response due on Monday, October 4, 2004.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2 of this paper;

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper;

Amendments to the drawings begin on page 7 of this paper and include an attached replacement sheet and an annotated copy of the replacement sheet showing changes;

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450 on October 4 2004.

Patricia S. Cunningham

(Name of Person Mailing Papers)

Signature

10-04-04
Date

{W0145729.1}

SEP 6 2005

8 Claim 8 (original) The flexible pipe joint according to claim 1, wherein a front end on the insertion side of the inner circumferential surface of the sleeve is provided with a tapered surface whose diameter becomes larger toward the front end.

5 4 Claim 4 (currently amended) The flexible pipe joint according to claim 3, wherein the sleeve is provided with a fixing means preventing relative motion in the pipe axis direction with respect to one of the pipe members, and a provisional stopping protrusion that, by engaging a depression formed in the inner circumferential surface of the other pipe member, prevents relative movement in pipe axis direction between the two pipe members, and wherein the provisional stopping protrusion is configured such that its provisional stopping can be released by shearing due to an external force in the pipe axis direction.

9 Claim 9 (new) A flexible pipe joint joining, in a bendable manner, a first pipe member provided with a partially spherical outer circumferential surface that protrudes outward in a radial direction and a second pipe member provided with a partially spherical inner surface that can slide along the partially spherical outer circumferential surface,

wherein a sleeve made of a synthetic resin is inserted and fitted in a state of contact, bridging the inner circumferential surfaces of the two pipe members, the sleeve having a length that covers a cavity portion that opens inward in radial direction at a location where the two pipe members are joined together, and being elastically deformed while substantially maintaining its circular tube shape when following a flexure of the two pipe members;

a spherical ring member having a partially spherical outer circumferential surface installed in the first pipe member such that the spherical ring member can slide within a predetermined range in a pipe axis direction, and the sleeve has a length that can cover any cavity